

CITY OF MARSING (PWS 3370013) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

August 28, 2002



State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Executive Summary

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the designated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the wells and aquifer characteristics.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for City of Marsing, Idaho*, describes the public drinking water system, the boundaries of the zones of water contribution, and the associated potential contaminant sources located within these boundaries. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The City of Marsing (PWS #3370013) drinking water system consists of three wells. Well #1 and Well #7 are manifolded together to provide the main source of drinking water. Along with the backup capabilities supplied by Well #3, the system serves approximately 809 people through 374 connections.

Final susceptibility scores are derived from equally weighting system construction scores, hydrologic sensitivity scores, and potential contaminant/land use scores. Therefore, a low rating in one or two categories coupled with a higher rating in other categories results in a final rating of low, moderate, or high susceptibility. With the potential contaminants associated with most urban and heavily agricultural areas, the best score a well can get is moderate. Potential contaminants are divided into four categories, inorganic contaminants (IOCs, i.e. nitrates, arsenic), volatile organic contaminants (VOCs, i.e. petroleum products), synthetic organic contaminants (SOCs, i.e. pesticides), and microbial contaminants (i.e. bacteria). As different wells can be subject to various contamination settings, separate scores are given for each type of contaminant.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #1 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, and SOCs, and automatically high for microbials. The automatically high ratings is due to a detection of total coliform in the well's water (February 1995). The arsenic levels were measured at 36 parts per billion (ppb). In 2000, EPA (www.epa.gov) lowered arsenic's MCL from 50 ppb to 10 ppb, but systems have until 2006 to comply with the new regulation. System construction and hydrologic sensitivity scores were high. Land use scores were high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #3 rated moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and microbials. The 15 ppb detection of arsenic in the well (August 1998) is higher than the revised MCL of 10 ppb which must be met by 2006. System construction and hydrologic sensitivity scores were moderate. Land use scores were high for IOCs, moderate for VOCs, high for SOCs, and low for microbials.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #7 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and microbials. Well #1's arsenic detection of 36 ppb was reflected in Well #7, as they are manifolded together. System construction scores rated moderate and hydrologic sensitivity scores rated high. Land use scores were high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials.

No SOCs or VOCs have ever been detected in the tested water. Traces of the IOCs barium, calcium, fluoride, magnesium, potassium, selenium, chromium, silicone, sodium, nitrogen ammonia, and sulfate have been detected. In addition, hydrogen sulfide (smells like rotten eggs in water) was measured at

levels almost 800% of its secondary MCL, and total dissolved solids were measured at 150% of its secondary MCL. Secondary MCLs are levels of constituents above which the aesthetic quality (sight, smell, taste) of the water decreases. The area surrounding the wells and their delineations exist within a county of high nitrogen fertilizer, herbicide, and ag-chemical use. In addition, the delineated areas contain priority areas for the IOCs nitrate and arsenic, and the SOCs atrazine and alachlor. Arsenic has been measured in concentrations above the current MCL of 10 ppb, while nitrate concentrations have been measured in concentrations approaching the MCL of 10 parts per million (ppm). Total coliform has been detected in the distribution system (September 1995) and Well #1 (February 1995).

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources. If the system should need to expand in the future, new well sites should be located in areas with as few potential sources of contamination as possible, and the site should be reserved and protected for this specific use.

For the City of Marsing, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey (an inspection conducted every five years with the purpose of determining the physical condition of a water system’s components and its capacity). Actions should be taken to keep a 50-foot radius circle around the wellhead clear of potential contaminants. Any contaminant spills within the delineation should be carefully monitored and dealt with. As much of the designated assessment areas are outside the direct jurisdiction of City of Marsing, collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups should be established and are critical to success. Because the arsenic in the well is greater than one-half the level of the revised MCL, the City of Marsing water users may need to consider implementing engineering controls to monitor and maintain or reduce the level of this contaminant in the water system. The EPA plans to provide up to \$20 million over the next two years for research and development of more cost-effective technologies to help small systems meet the new MCL.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan as the delineations are near urban and residential land uses areas. Public education topics could include proper lawn and garden care practices, household hazardous waste disposal methods, proper care and maintenance of septic systems, and the importance of water conservation to name but a few. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the EPA. There are transportation corridors near the delineations, therefore the Department of Transportation should be involved in protection activities. Drinking water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission, the Canyon County and Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (i.e. zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (i.e. good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Boise Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FOR CITY OF MARSING, IDAHO

Section 1. Introduction - Basis for Assessment

The following sections contain information necessary to understand how and why this assessment was conducted. **It is important to review this information to understand what the ranking of this assessment means.** Maps showing the delineated source water assessment area and the inventory of significant potential sources of contamination identified within that area are included. The list of significant potential contaminant source categories and their rankings used to develop the assessment also is included.

Background

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative susceptibility to contaminants regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. This assessment is based on a land use inventory of the delineated assessment area and sensitivity factors associated with the wells and aquifer characteristics.

Level of Accuracy and Purpose of the Assessment

Since there are over 2,900 public water sources in Idaho, there is limited time and resources to accomplish the assessments. All assessments must be completed by May of 2003. An in-depth, site-specific investigation of each significant potential source of contamination is not possible. **Therefore, this assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this source. The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the water system.**

The ultimate goal of the assessment is to provide data to local communities to develop a protection strategy for their drinking water supply system. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recognizes that pollution prevention activities generally require less time and money to implement than treatment of a public water supply system once it has been contaminated. DEQ encourages communities to balance resource protection with economic growth and development. The decision as to the amount and types of information necessary to develop a drinking water protection program should be determined by the local community based on its own needs and limitations. Wellhead or drinking water protection is one facet of a comprehensive growth plan, and it can complement ongoing local planning efforts.

Section 2. Conducting the Assessment

General Description of the Source Water Quality

The City of Marsing (PWS #3370013) drinking water system consists of three wells. Well #1 and Well #7 are manifolded together to provide the main source of drinking water. Along with the backup capabilities supplied by Well #3, the system serves approximately 809 people through 374 connections.

No SOCs or VOCs have ever been detected in the tested water. Traces of the IOCs barium, calcium, fluoride, magnesium, potassium, selenium, chromium, silicone, sodium, nitrogen ammonia, and sulfate have been detected. In addition, hydrogen sulfide (smells like rotten eggs in water) was measured at levels almost 800% of its secondary MCL, and total dissolved solids were measured at 150% of its secondary MCL. Secondary MCLs are levels of constituents above which the aesthetic quality (sight, smell, taste) of the water decreases. The area surrounding the wells and their delineations exist within a county of high nitrogen fertilizer, herbicide, and ag-chemical use. In addition, the delineated areas contain priority areas for the IOCs nitrate and arsenic, and the SOCs atrazine and alachlor. Arsenic has been measured in concentrations above the current MCL of 10 ppb, while nitrate concentrations have been measured in concentrations approaching the MCL of 10 ppm. Total coliform has been detected in the distribution system (September 1995) and Well #1 (February 1995).

Defining the Zones of Contribution – Delineation

The delineation process establishes the physical area around a well that will become the focal point of the assessment. The process includes mapping the boundaries of the zone of contribution into time-of-travel (TOT) zones (zones indicating the number of years necessary for a particle of water to reach a well) for water in the aquifer. DEQ contracted with BARR Engineering to perform the delineation using a combination of MODFLOW and a refined analytical element computer model approved by the EPA in determining the 3-year (Zone 1B), 6-year (Zone 2), and 10-year (Zone 3) TOT for water associated with the Boise Valley aquifer in the vicinity of the Sorrento Lactalis Swiss Village. The computer model used site specific data, assimilated by BARR Engineering from a variety of sources including City of Marsing well logs, other local area well logs, the Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project, and hydrogeologic reports (detailed below).

Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project Information (Petrich and Urban, 1996; Neely and Crockett, 1998; Petrich et al., 1999)

The “Treasure Valley” is a geopolitical region that includes the lower Boise River sub-basin. The lower Boise River sub-basin begins where the Boise River exits the mountains near the Lucky Peak Reservoir. From Lucky Peak Dam the lower Boise River flows about 64 (river) miles northwestward through the Treasure Valley to its confluence with the Snake River. The Treasure Valley Hydrologic Project area encompasses the lower Boise River area, and extends south to the Snake River. The southern area is included in the study area because of ground water flow from the Lower Boise River basin south toward the Snake River.

Significant amounts of desert area were converted to flood irrigated agriculture beginning in the 1860s. Irrigation led to increases in shallow ground water levels in some areas. The shallow groundwater levels provided an inexpensive and readily obtainable water supply that is used extensively throughout the valley. Much of the population growth in the Treasure Valley has been occurring in previously flood-irrigated agricultural areas, resulting in increased pumpage and a reduction in local

aquifer recharge. In addition, irrigation in some areas has become more efficient, reducing the amount of irrigation-related infiltration. Decreasing aquifer recharge and increasing pumpage is thought to be contributing to decreasing ground water levels in some areas.

The Treasure Valley experiences a temperate and arid-to-semiarid climate. Average high temperatures range from about 90°F in summer to 36°F in winter; low temperatures range from about 20°F in winter to about 56°F in summer. The average precipitation ranges from about 8 to 14 inches throughout most of the valley, most of which falls during the colder months.

Major surface water bodies include the Boise River, Lake Lowell, and Lucky Peak Reservoir. The primary source of surface water in the Treasure Valley is precipitation falling in the high elevation area in the Boise River basin upstream of Lucky Peak Dam. Much of the runoff from high elevation areas is stored in three reservoirs: Anderson Ranch Reservoir, Arrowrock Reservoir, and Lucky Peak Reservoir.

The region's croplands are irrigated primarily with surface water through an extensive network of reservoirs and canals. The first canals were constructed in the 1860's; there are now over 1,100 miles of major and intermediate canals in the Treasure Valley. The primary sources of the irrigation water in the Treasure Valley include the Boise, Snake, and Payette Rivers. The majority of canals are owned and maintained by canal companies and irrigation districts.

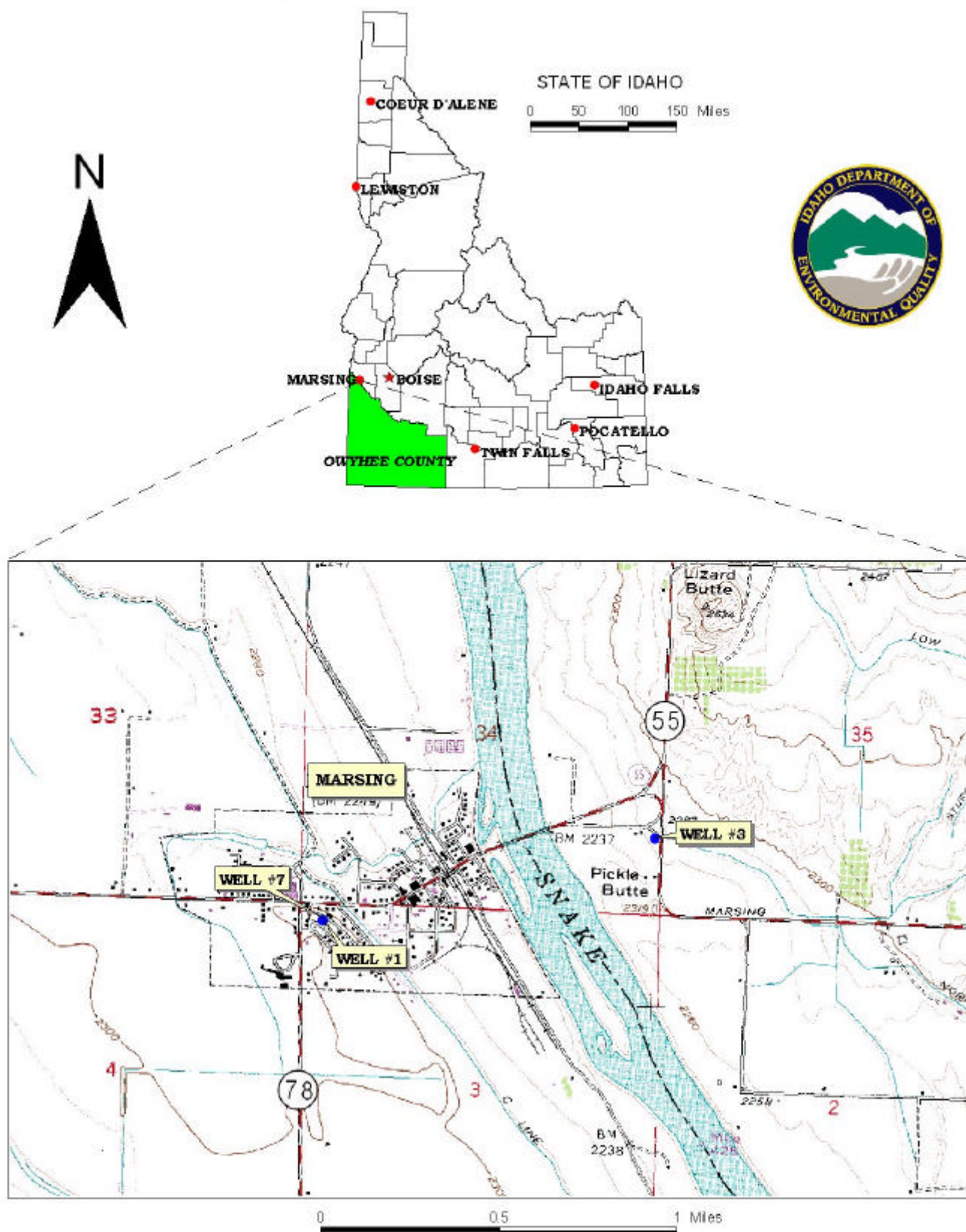
Hydrogeology (from Petrich et al., 1999)

The lower Boise River sub-basin (Treasure Valley) is located within the northwest-trending topographic depression known as the western Snake River Plain. The western Snake River Plain is a relatively flat lowland separating Cretaceous granitic mountains of west-central Idaho from the granitic/volcanic Owyhee mountains in southwestern Idaho. The western Snake River Plain extends from about Twin Falls, Idaho northwestward to Vale, Oregon. The Snake River Plain is about 30 miles wide in the section containing the lower Boise River.

Sediments originating from the surrounding mountains began accumulating on top of thick, basal basalts. Rifting and continued subsidence maintained the lowland topography, leading to the additional accumulation of water and sediments (Othberg, 1994). Basin infilling by sediments and basalt occurred from the late Miocene through the late Pliocene (Othberg, 1994). Incision caused by flowing water in major drainages (e.g., Snake and Boise Rivers) began in the late Pliocene or early Pleistocene, although deposition of coarse sediments continued during Quaternary glaciations (Othberg, 1994).

Several Quaternary basalt flows have been described in the western Snake River Plain, and have been assigned to the upper Snake River Group (Malde, 1991; Malde and Powers, 1962). Lava flowed across portions of the ancestral Snake River Valley (Malde, 1991) in an area that is now south of the Boise River. The Snake River then changed course, incising at its present location along the southern margin of the basalt flows. More recent eruptions (from Kuna Butte and other local sources) spilled lava into the canyon south of Melba. The Snake River has since incised this basalt (Malde, 1991).

FIGURE 1. Geographic Location of the City of Marsing



The general stratigraphy of the western Snake River Plain consists of (from top to bottom) a thick layer of sedimentary deposits underlain by a thick series of basalt flows, which in turn are underlain by older, tuffaceous sediments and basalt (Malde, 1991; Clemens, 1993). The upper thick zone of sediments (up to approximately 6,000 feet thick) distinguishes the western Snake River Plain from the eastern Snake River Plain, in which the upper section is primarily Quaternary basalt (Wood and Anderson, 1981).

The uppermost sediments and basalt belong to the Pleistocene-age Snake River Group. The Snake River Group consists of terrace sediments, Quaternary alluvium, and Pleistocene basalt flows (Wood and Anderson, 1981). Snake River Group sediments and basalts cover much of the project area (Othberg and Stanford, 1992).

The Snake River Group overlies the Idaho Group sediments. The Idaho Group sediments can be divided into two general parts (Wood and Anderson, 1981). The lower Idaho Group contains sediments described as lake and stream deposits of buff white, brown, and gray sand, silt, clay, diatomite, numerous thin beds of vitric ash, and some basaltic tuffs. The upper part of the lower Idaho Group also contains some local, thin, basalt flows. The upper Idaho Group consists of sands, claystones, and siltstones, but differs from the lower Idaho Group in that it contains a greater percentage of coarser-grained materials. The upper Idaho Group are associated with a fluvial/deltaic/lacustrine depositional environment; the lower Idaho Group sediments were deposited in more of a lacustrine/deltaic environment (Wood, 1994).

Wood (1994) identified a buried lacustrine delta within the Idaho Group sediments in the Nampa-Caldwell area. The location of the delta in the middle of the western Snake River Plain suggests that the eastern part of the Boise River basin was delta plain and flood plain at the time of deposition, while the western part was a deep lake environment. The delta probably prograded northwestward into a lake basin 830 feet deep, based upon high resolution seismic reflection data and resistivity log interpretations. The delta-plain and front sediments were shown to be mostly fine-grained, well-sorted sand with thin layers of mud (Wood, 1994). The northwest trend of the delta indicates a sediment source to the southeast, such as where the Snake River flows today (Wood, 1994).

A substantial, laterally extensive layer of clay is found at depths of 300 to 700 feet below ground surface. The clay is important because it represents, in some areas, a significant aquitard separating shallow overlying aquifers from deeper zones. The clay, often described in well logs as having a blue or gray color, has been observed as far west as Parma, and as far east as Boise (although the clay is not found in the extreme eastern portions of the Treasure Valley). The clay varies from a few feet to a few hundred feet in thickness. Although significant layers of clay are present throughout the Idaho Group sediments, individual clay units are not necessarily continuous over large areas. Also, the top of the clay can vary in elevation by up to approximately 200 feet in some locations, such as in an area west of Lake Lowell. In general, sediments above the “blue clay” are coarser-grained than the interbedded sands, silts, and clays underlying the “blue clay.”

The top of the upper Idaho Group is marked in several parts of the Treasure Valley by a widespread fluvial gravel deposit known as the Tenmile Gravels. Tenmile Gravels contain rounded granitic rocks and felsic porphyries originating from the Idaho Batholith to the north and northeast. The Tenmile Gravels range up to 500 feet in thickness along the Tenmile Ridge south of Boise, but are less than 50 feet thick in the Nampa-Caldwell area (Wood and Anderson, 1981).

Aquifer Systems and Hydrogeologic Characteristics

Ground water for municipal, industrial, rural domestic, and irrigation uses in the Treasure Valley is drawn almost entirely from Snake River Group and Idaho Group aquifers. Many domestic wells draw water from shallow aquifers, such as those in the Snake River Group deposits. Larger production wells (for municipal and agricultural uses) draw water from the deeper Idaho Group sediments.

Aquifers contained in the Snake River and Idaho Group sediments comprise shallow and regional ground water flow systems. Shallow aquifers contained in Snake River Group sediments and basalts may belong to local flow systems. Most local flow system recharge stems from irrigation infiltration and channel (e.g., streams or canals) losses. Discharge from shallow, local flow systems often is to local drains or streams. The time from recharge to discharge in shallow flow systems probably ranges from days to tens of years.

In contrast, regional ground water flow systems extend much deeper than local flow systems. The Treasure Valley regional flow system begins in the eastern part of the valley, as indicated by downward hydraulic gradients in the Boise Fan sediments described by Squires et al. (1992). Some water also enters the regional flow system as underflow from the Boise Foothills in the northeastern part of the valley. The regional flow system is thought to discharge primarily to the Boise and Snake Rivers in the western and southwestern parts of the valley.

Aquifer material characteristics, material heterogeneity, and structural controls influence Treasure Valley ground water flow. Coarse-grained materials (e.g., sand and gravel) in upper zones are more capable of transmitting ground water than fine-grained sediments (e.g., silt and clay). Clay and silt in the Snake River sediments can restrict vertical and/or horizontal ground water movement. Perched aquifers are created when fine-grained lenses impede downward vertical flow. A distinctive clay layer, sometimes referred to as "blue clay," is present over large portions of the valley. The clay is absent in the easternmost portions of the lower Boise River Basin, but can reach a thickness of more than 200 feet toward the central and western portions of the basin.

Sequences of interbedded sand, silt, and clay, such as the Deer Flat Surface and the upper portion of the Glens Ferry Formation of the upper Idaho Group in the Nampa-Caldwell area, are the major water-producing aquifers in a large part of Canyon County (Anderson and Wood, 1981). The coarse-grained sediments in this zone produce water in excess of 2,000 gallons per minute (gpm).

The delineated source water assessment area for the City of Marsing wells can best be described as an northeast trending corridors approximately 5 miles long and 0.3 miles wide extending to Lake Lowell (Figure 2 and 3). The actual data used by BARR Engineering in determining the source water assessment delineation areas are available from DEQ upon request.

Identifying Potential Sources of Contamination

A potential source of contamination is defined as any facility or activity that stores, uses, or produces, as a product or by-product, the contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act and has a sufficient likelihood of releasing such contaminants at levels that could pose a concern relative to drinking water sources. The goal of the inventory process is to locate and describe those facilities, land uses, and environmental conditions that are potential sources of groundwater contamination.

The locations of potential sources of contamination within the delineation areas were obtained by field surveys conducted by DEQ and from available databases.

Land use within the area surrounding the City of Marsing wells is predominately irrigated agricultural with minimal urban.

It is important to understand that a release may never occur from a potential source of contamination provided they are using best management practices. Many potential sources of contamination are regulated at the federal level, state level, or both to reduce the risk of release. Therefore, when a business, facility, or property is identified as a potential contaminant source, this should not be interpreted to mean that this business, facility, or property is in violation of any local, state, or federal environmental law or regulation. What it does mean is that the potential for contamination exists due to the nature of the business, industry, or operation. There are a number of methods that water systems can use to work cooperatively with potential sources of contamination, including educational visits and inspections of stored materials. Many owners of such facilities may not even be aware that they are located near a public water supply well.

Contaminant Source Inventory Process

A two-phased contaminant inventory of the study area was conducted in April and May 2002. The first phase involved identifying and documenting potential contaminant sources within the City of Marsing source water assessment area (Figure 2 and 3) through the use of computer databases and Geographic Information System (GIS) maps developed by DEQ. The second, or enhanced, phase of the contaminant inventory involved contacting the operator to identify and add any additional potential sources in the delineated areas.

The delineated source water areas for the wells (Figure 2 and 3) contain a high percentage of agricultural land which was considered as a source of IOCs.

The delineated source water areas for the wells (Figure 2 and 3, Table 1 and 2) have their potential contaminants outlined below. Sources include a wood products manufacturer, a cheese processor, Highway 55, and Marsing Road.

Table 1. City of Marsing, Well #1 and Well #7, Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE	Source Description ¹	TOT ² ZONE	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ³
1	LUST site; Site Cleanup Incomplete, impact: Groundwater	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
2, 12	UST, LUST site; Site Cleanup complete, impact: unknown	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
3, 8	UST, LUST site; Site Cleanup complete, impact: unknown	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
4, 5, 9	UST, LUST site; Site Cleanup complete, impact: unknown	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
6	UST site, gas station; open	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
7	UST site, not listed; open	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
10	UST site, gas station; closed	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
11	UST site, other; open	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
13	UST site, gas station; open	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
14	UST site, other; closed	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
15	Automobile Parts & Supplies-Retail	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
16	Automobile Repairing & Service	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
17	Hardware-Retail	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
18	Tractor-Repairing & Service	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
19	Automobile Parts & Supplies-Retail	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
20	CERCLA site	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
21	SARA site	0-3 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
22	AST	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
23	Wineries	3-6 YR	Database Search	IOC, SOC
24	mine; sand and gravel	3-6 YR	Database Search	IOC, VOC, SOC
25	AST	6-10 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
	Union Pacific Railroad	0-3 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials
	Marsing Road	0-6 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials
	Snake River	0-3 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, Microbials
	Canals	6-10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC
	Lake Lowell	6-10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC
	Demke Pipeline	3-10 YR	GIS Map	VOC, SOC

¹ AST = above ground storage tank, UST = underground storage tank, LUST = leaking underground storage tank, CERCLA = comprehensive environmental response compensation and liability act, SARA = superfund amendments and reauthorization act

² TOT = time-of-travel (in years) for a potential contaminant to reach the wellhead

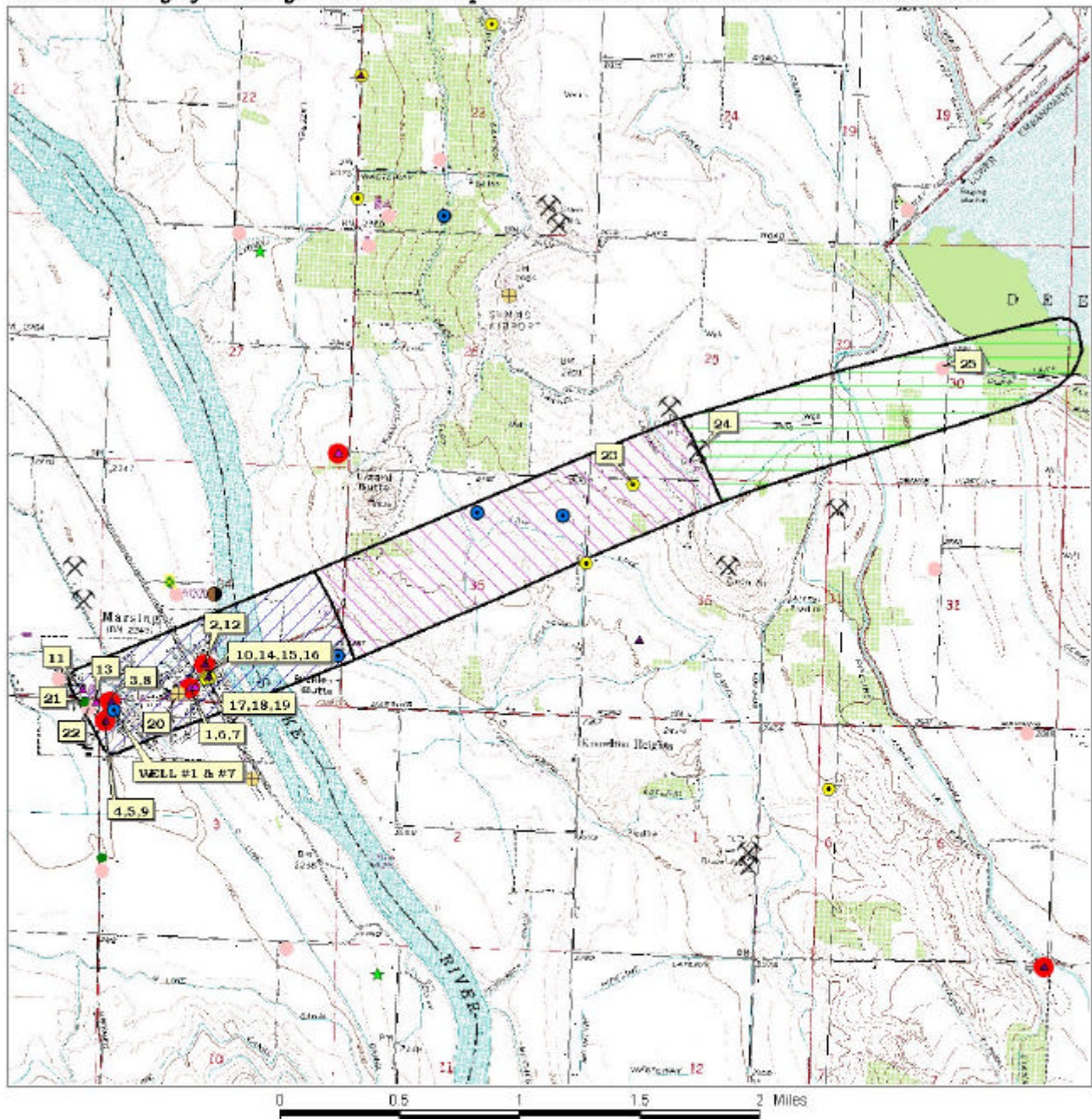
³ IOC = inorganic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical

Table 2. City of Marsing, Well #3, Potential Contaminant Inventory

SITE #	Source Description ¹	TOT Zone ² (years)	Source of Information	Potential Contaminants ³
1	LUST site; Site Cleanup Incomplete, impact: Groundwater	0-3 YR	Database Search	VOC, SOC
	Highway 55	0-3 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC, microbial
	Canals	0-10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC
	Lake Lowell	6 - 10 YR	GIS Map	IOC, VOC, SOC

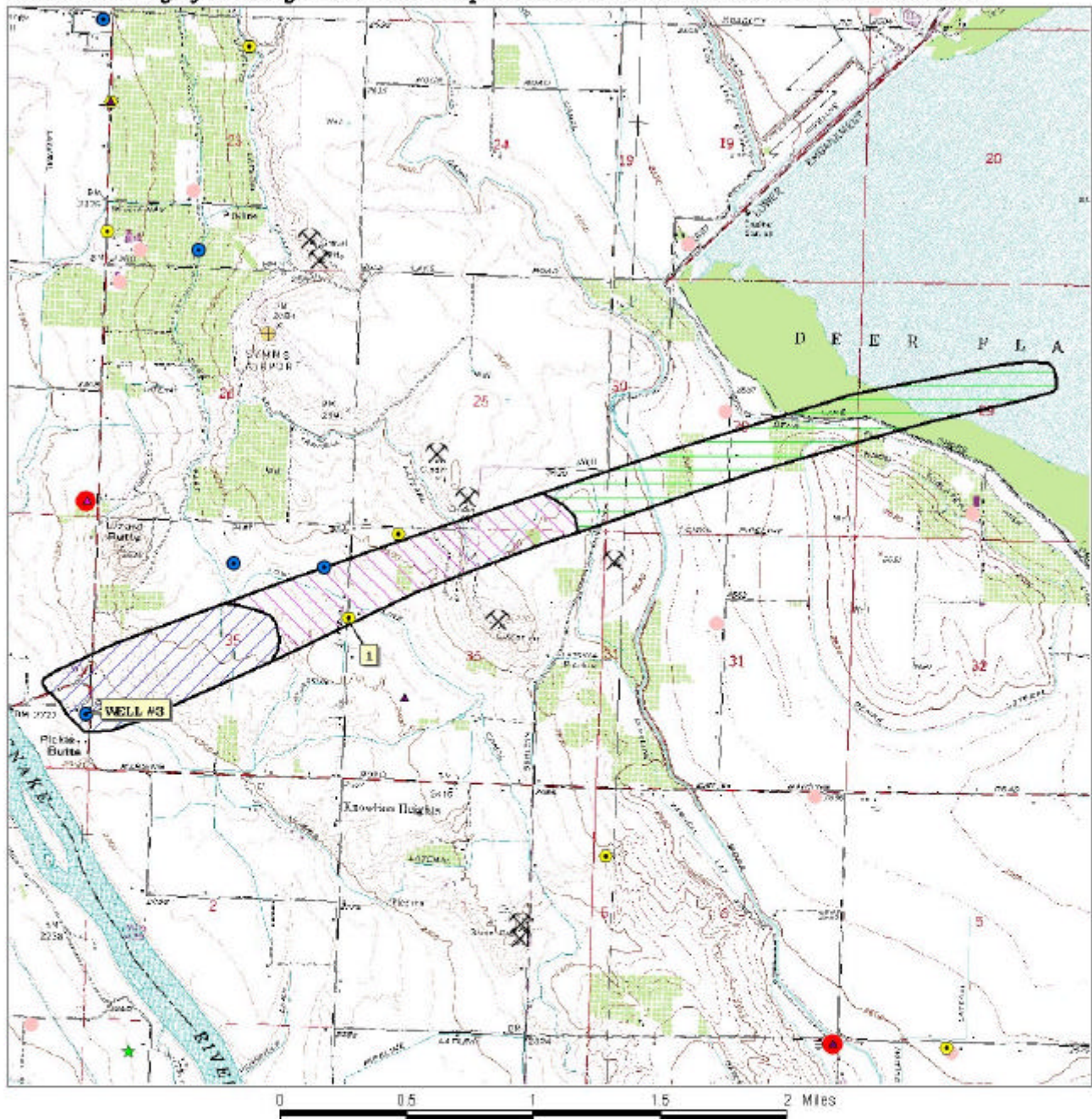
¹ LUST = leaking underground storage tank

FIGURE 2. City of Marsing Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations



PWS# 3370013
WELL #1 & #7

FIGURE 3. City of Marsing Delineation Map and Potential Contaminant Source Locations



PWS# 3370013
WELL #3

Section 3. Susceptibility Analyses

Each well's susceptibility to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: hydrologic characteristics, physical integrity of the well, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for each well is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement. Attachment A contains the susceptibility analysis worksheets. The following summaries describe the rationale for the susceptibility ranking.

Hydrologic Sensitivity

The hydrologic sensitivity of a well is dependent upon four factors: the surface soil composition, the material in the vadose zone (between the land surface and the water table), the depth to first ground water, and the presence of a 50-foot thick fine-grained zone (aquiclude) above the producing zone of the well. Slowly draining soils such as silt and clay typically are more protective of ground water than coarse-grained soils such as sand and gravel. Similarly, fine-grained sediments in the subsurface and a water depth of more than 300 feet protect the ground water from contamination.

Well #1 rated high for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderate to well-drained. Although a well log was not available for Well #1, Well #7 is located only 50 feet away and noted a water table of 63 feet and a permeable vadose zone of sand and gravel. In addition, scores are increased because it is unknown if an aquiclude is present.

Well #3 rated moderate for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderate to well-drained. The water table is only 16 feet deep and the vadose zone is composed of predominantly top soil which is therefore permeable based on soil characteristics of the area. A 50-foot thick aquiclude is present.

Well #7 rated high for hydrologic sensitivity. Area soils are moderate to well-drained, depth to first water is 63 feet, the vadose zone is permeable sands and gravels, and an aquiclude is not present.

Well Construction

Well construction directly affects the ability of the well to protect the aquifer from contaminants. System construction scores are reduced when information shows that potential contaminants will have a more difficult time reaching the intake of the well. Lower scores imply a system is less vulnerable to contamination. For example, if the well casing and annular seal both extend into a low permeability unit, then the possibility of contamination is reduced and the system construction score goes down. If the highest production interval is more than 100 feet below the water table, then the system is considered to have better buffering capacity. If the wellhead and surface seal are maintained to standards, as outlined in sanitary surveys, then contamination down the well bore is less likely. If the well is protected from surface flooding and is outside the 100-year floodplain, then contamination from surface events is reduced.

Well #1 rated high for system construction. According to the sanitary survey, the well was drilled to 976 feet in 1946, with a pump set at 126 feet. The wellhead is located outside of the 100-year floodplain. Scores were increased because, according to the sanitary survey, the surface seal was not adequate and the well casing only extended 4 inches above ground level. Current regulations require a casing to be at least 12 inches above ground level. A vent pipe (at least 18 inches above ground level, downturned, and screened) also needs to be attached to the wellhead. Because no well log was available, it is unknown to what depths the casing, annular seal, and screened section(s) exist in the borehole.

Well #3 rated moderate for system construction. The well was drilled in 1973 and is 700 feet deep. The well is 18 inches in diameter to 47 feet, and 8 inches down to 663 feet. Ten screened intervals totaling 49 feet were placed between sections of steel casing at various lithologies containing water. Each segment of casing was seated into clay. The annular seal is 30 feet deep and extends into gravel/sand. The well is located outside of the 100-year floodplain, the wellhead and surface seal are maintained, the highest production comes from more than 100 feet below the static water level, and cased intervals extend into low permeability units. Scores were increased because the annular seal does not extend into a low permeability unit, and therefore does not meet current construction standards.

Well #7 rated moderate for system construction. The well was drilled in 1995. A 14-inch casing extends 84 feet into clay and an 8 inch casing extends 136 feet into clay. An open borehole extends from the end of the casing to the well's total depth of 200 feet. An annular seal of bentonite is set 84 feet into clay. The well is located outside of the 100-year floodplain, and its casing and annular seals both extend into low permeability units. Scores are increased because the highest production of the well is less than 100 feet below static water levels, it is unknown if the wellhead and surface seal are maintained, and is therefore it is unknown if the well meets current construction standards.

Current PWS well construction standards are more stringent than when the wells were constructed. The Idaho Department of Water Resources *Well Construction Standards Rules* (1993) require all PWSs to follow DEQ standards as well. IDAPA 58.01.08.550 requires that PWSs follow the *Recommended Standards for Water Works* (1997) during construction. Some of the regulations deal with screening requirements, aquifer pump tests, use of a downturned casing vent, and thickness of casing. Table 1 of the *Recommended Standards for Water Works* (1997) lists the required steel casing thickness for various diameter wells. Twelve to twenty-inch diameter casings require a casing thickness of 0.375 inches. Ten-inch diameter wells require a casing thickness of 0.365 inches, and eight inch diameter casings should be 0.322 inches thick. The wells were assessed an additional system construction point because they did not meet current regulations.

Potential Contaminant Source and Land Use

Well #1 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials. Well #3 rated high for IOCs, moderate for VOCs, high for SOCs, and low for microbials. Well #7 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials. The amount of irrigated agricultural land, and location and number of potential contaminant sources within each delineation contributed to their scores.

Final Susceptibility Ranking

A detection above a drinking water standard MCL, any detection of a VOC or SOC, or a detection of total coliform bacteria or fecal coliform bacteria at the wellhead will automatically give a high susceptibility rating to a well despite the land use of the area because a pathway for contamination

already exists. Additionally, potential contaminant sources within 50 feet of a wellhead will automatically lead to a high susceptibility rating. Hydrologic sensitivity and system construction scores are heavily weighted in the final scores. Having multiple potential contaminant sources in the 0 to 3-year time of travel zone (Zone 1B) contribute greatly to the overall ranking. In this case Well #1 rated automatically high for microbials due to a detection of total coliform in the well's water.

Table 3. Summary of City of Marsing Susceptibility Evaluation

Well	Susceptibility Scores ¹									
	Hydrologic Sensitivity	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
Well #1	H	H	H	H	L	H	M	H	H	H*
Well #3	M	H	M	H	L	M	M	M	M	M
Well #7	H	H	H	H	L	M	M	H	H	H

¹H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility,

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

H*= automatic high due to arsenic above MCL (Well #1, #3, #7) and total coliform detection in Well #1

Susceptibility Summary

The City of Marsing (PWS #3370013) drinking water system consists of three wells. Well #1 and Well #7 are manifolded together to provide the main source of drinking water. Along with the backup capabilities supplied by Well #3, the system serves approximately 809 people through 374 connections.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #1 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, and SOCs, and automatically high for microbials. The automatically high ratings is due to a detection of total coliform in the well's water (February 1995). The arsenic levels were measured at 36 ppb. In 2000, EPA (www.epa.gov) lowered arsenic's MCL from 50 ppb to 10 ppb, but systems have until 2006 to comply with the new regulation. System construction and hydrologic sensitivity scores were high. Land use scores were high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #3 rated moderate for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and microbials. The 15 ppb detection of arsenic in the well (August 1998) is higher than the revised MCL of 10 ppb which must be met by 2006. System construction and hydrologic sensitivity scores were moderate. Land use scores were high for IOCs, moderate for VOCs, high for SOCs, and low for microbials.

In terms of total susceptibility, Well #7 rated high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and microbials. Well #1's arsenic detection of 36 ppb was reflected in Well #7, as they are manifolded together. System construction scores rated moderate and hydrologic sensitivity scores rated high. Land use scores were high for IOCs, VOCs, SOCs, and low for microbials.

Section 4. Options for Drinking Water Protection

The susceptibility assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what the susceptibility ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses that require surveillance, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

An effective drinking water protection program is tailored to the particular local drinking water protection area. A community with a fully developed drinking water protection program will incorporate many strategies. For City of Marsing, drinking water protection activities should first focus on correcting any deficiencies outlined in the sanitary survey. Actions should be taken to keep a 50-foot radius circle clear around the wellheads. Any spills within the delineation should be carefully monitored and dealt with. As much of the designated protection area is outside the direct jurisdiction City of Marsing, making collaboration and partnerships with state and local agencies and industry groups are critical to the success of drinking water protection. The wells should maintain sanitary standards regarding wellhead protection.

Due to the time involved with the movement of ground water, drinking water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. A strong public education program should be a primary focus of any drinking water protection plan as the delineation contains some urban and residential land uses. Public education topics could include proper lawn and garden care practices, household hazardous waste disposal methods, proper care and maintenance of septic systems, and the importance of water conservation to name but a few. There are multiple resources available to help communities implement protection programs, including the Drinking Water Academy of the U.S. EPA. Drinking water protection activities for agriculture should be coordinated with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission, the Canyon County and Owyhee Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A community must incorporate a variety of strategies in order to develop a comprehensive drinking water protection plan, be they regulatory in nature (i.e. zoning, permitting) or non-regulatory in nature (i.e. good housekeeping, public education, specific best management practices). For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Boise Regional Office of the DEQ or the Idaho Rural Water Association.

Assistance

Public water supplies and others may call the following DEQ offices with questions about this assessment and to request assistance with developing and implementing a local protection plan. In addition, draft protection plans may be submitted to the DEQ office for preliminary review and comments.

Boise Regional DEQ Office (208) 373-0550

State DEQ Office (208) 373-0502

Website: <http://www.deq.state.id.us>

Water suppliers serving fewer than 10,000 persons may contact Melinda Harper, Idaho Rural Water Association, at (208) 373-7001 (mharper@idahoruralwater.com) for assistance with drinking water protection (formerly wellhead protection) strategies.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund® is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)

– Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by DEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory.

Where possible, a list of potential contaminant sites unable to be located with geocoding will be provided to water systems to determine if the potential contaminant sources are located within the source water assessment area.

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Attachment A

City of Marsing
Susceptibility Analysis
Worksheets

The final scores for the susceptibility analysis were determined using the following formulas:

- 1) VOC/SOC/IOC Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.2)
- 2) Microbial Final Score = Hydrologic Sensitivity + System Construction + (Potential Contaminant/Land Use x 0.375)

Final Susceptibility Scoring:

0 - 5 Low Susceptibility

6 - 12 Moderate Susceptibility

≥ 13 High Susceptibility

1. System Construction

SCORE

Drill Date	01/01/1946	
Driller Log Available	NO	
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES	1995
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO	2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0

Total System Construction Score 5

2. Hydrologic Sensitivity

Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2

Total Hydrologic Score 6

3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A

IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
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Land Use Zone 1A	IRRIGATED CROPLAND	2	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	YES	2	0	2	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		4	2	4	2

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B

Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	11	21	21	3
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		8	8	8	6
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	9	5	5	
4 Points Maximum		4	4	4	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	YES	2	0	2	0
Land use Zone 1B 25 to 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	2
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		16	14	16	8

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II

Contaminant Sources Present	YES	2	2	2	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Land Use Zone II Greater Than 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	
Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		5	5	5	0

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	YES	1	1	1	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		3	3	3	0

Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		28	24	28	10
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4. Final Susceptibility Source Score	17	16	17	15
5. Final Well Ranking	High	High	High	High

Ground Water Susceptibility Report

Public Water System Name :

MARSING CITY OF

Well# : WELL #3

Public Water System Number 3370013

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1. System Construction	SCORE
Drill Date	09/06/1973
Driller Log Available	YES
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	YES 1995
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO 1
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	YES 0
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	NO 2
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	YES 0
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES 0
Total System Construction Score	3

2. Hydrologic Sensitivity	
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO 2
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES 1
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO 1
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	YES 0
Total Hydrologic Score	4

3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A	IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	IRRIGATED CROPLAND	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	YES	2	0	2
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A	4	2	4	2

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B						
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)		YES	2	2	2	1
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum			4	4	4	2
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or		YES	5	1	1	
4 Points Maximum			4	1	1	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area		YES	2	0	2	0
Land use Zone 1B	Greater Than 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		4	4	4	4
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B			14	9	11	6

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II						

Contaminant Sources Present		YES	2	2	2	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or		NO	0	0	0	
Land Use Zone II	Greater Than 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	

Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II			4	4	4	0

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III				

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1

Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	NO YES	0 1	0 1	0 1	
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		2	2	2	0
Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		24	17	21	8
4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		12	10	11	10
5. Final Well Ranking		High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

Ground Water Susceptibility Report Public Water System Name : MARSING CITY OF Well# : WELL #7
Public Water System Number 3370013 06/13/2002 1:39:45 PM

1. System Construction		SCORE			
Drill Date	04/10/1995				
Driller Log Available	YES				
Sanitary Survey (if yes, indicate date of last survey)	NO				
Well meets IDWR construction standards	NO	1			
Wellhead and surface seal maintained	NO	1			
Casing and annular seal extend to low permeability unit	YES	0			
Highest production 100 feet below static water level	NO	1			
Well located outside the 100 year flood plain	YES	0			
Total System Construction Score		3			

2. Hydrologic Sensitivity					
Soils are poorly to moderately drained	NO	2			
Vadose zone composed of gravel, fractured rock or unknown	YES	1			
Depth to first water > 300 feet	NO	1			
Aquitard present with > 50 feet cumulative thickness	NO	2			
Total Hydrologic Score		6			

3. Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1A		IOC Score	VOC Score	SOC Score	Microbial Score
Land Use Zone 1A	IRRIGATED CROPLAND	2	2	2	2
Farm chemical use high	YES	2	0	2	
IOC, VOC, SOC, or Microbial sources in Zone 1A	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO
Total Potential Contaminant Source/Land Use Score - Zone 1A		4	2	4	2

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE 1B					
Contaminant sources present (Number of Sources)	YES	11	21	21	3
(Score = # Sources X 2) 8 Points Maximum		8	8	8	6
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	9	5	5	
4 Points Maximum		4	4	4	
Zone 1B contains or intercepts a Group 1 Area	YES	2	0	2	0
Land use Zone 1B 25 to 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	2
Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone 1B		16	14	16	8

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE II					
Contaminant Sources Present	YES	2	2	2	

Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Land Use Zone II Greater Than 50% Irrigated Agricultural Land		2	2	2	

Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone II		5	5	5	0

Potential Contaminant / Land Use - ZONE III					

Contaminant Source Present	YES	1	1	1	
Sources of Class II or III leacheable contaminants or	YES	1	1	1	
Is there irrigated agricultural lands that occupy > 50% of	YES	1	1	1	

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score - Zone III		3	3	3	0

Cumulative Potential Contaminant / Land Use Score		28	24	28	10

4. Final Susceptibility Source Score		15	14	15	13

5. Final Well Ranking		High	High	High	High

